

Meeting Minutes-State Interagency Team Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2021

2:00-4:00

Facilitator: Cheryle Wilcox

Note Taker: Diane Bugbee

Present: Suzanne Legare-Belcher, Barb Joyal, Adam Poulin, Laurel Omland, Sandi Yandow , Danielle Bragg, Karen BB, Diane, Cheryle Wilcox, Melanie D'Amico, Amy Lincoln-Moore, Amy Roth, Karen Price, Alicia Hanrahan

Regrets: Dana Robson

Welcome and Dept. Updates

- Act 264 Board has the Parent Rep Survey raw data back. This will be organized and hopefully shared next time.

DMH:

- A lot of focus on youth in EDs. Laurel, Fox, Dr. Rettew and many others including parents, VCP testified today in House Health Care. Discussed PUCK and experiences.
- Mobile Response pilot in Rutland is still active one-year Federal ARPA. Pressures on community-based system.
- Showed a diagram with visual flow and pressure points. VCP shared numbers about vacancies that are striking. Suzanne – what are the solutions? Challenges related to staff positions and finding respite workers. In process of filling Trauma Director position.
- Meetings with EDs, closures of beds have impact on system part work force issues, part related to managing acuity.
- Thinking about how to spend block grant dollars. VDH is also receiving \$28 million related to equity in health care. Cheryle is helping to shepherd referrals.
- Hiring freeze lifted, will be hiring for positions.
- Frank Reed is retiring tomorrow.

VDH:

- System is strained, will be moving contract tracing outside VDH staff. People coming up for air.
- CSHN Medicaid programs CPCS extending application deadlines, still operating under special CMS authorities with parents receiving payments.
- Home Health has been picking up some capacity around care coordination.

CDD:

- Just heard can hire for long term vacancies. CIS Director is back on the table.
- Melissa Rigal-Garrett last day tomorrow, working in childcare field for Federal Government. Miranda Gray is the new Deputy Commissioner.
- House Human Services bill looking at moving CDD, summer work group. Statewide group is meeting to look at guidance for childcare providers as things begin to open up.

DAIL:

- Monica White has been appointed as DAIL's Interim Commissioner.
- DDS has convened a task force to look at recruitment, training, and retention of home providers.
- The DDS is holding a mini retreat next week to discuss future planning. We are also listening to a Town Hall hosted by the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council to hear from stakeholders about American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding: *How do you think the State should use this extra funding to improve HCBS in Vermont?*

DVHA:

- Conversations about kids in EDs, kids stuck on units.
- ABA benefit site visits resuming virtually. Additionally, ABA benefit is fairly new, now tiered case model, feedback that prospective payment difficult, exploring this and potentially providing a retrospective payment beginning July 1.

AHS Field Services:

- Focus is on housing. 2,167 adults and 425 children are living in hotels. Legislature has appointed a workgroup around requirements – what are the rules moving forward. Food boxes continuing.

VFFCMH:

- Overextended right now, looking at data of calls. Are the issues different than COVID. Many are related to education. A lot of needs. Long ED waits. What kind of support would be helpful.
- Who's using the USP, how to measure data, need this data to make the day to day decisions. Not necessarily funded for the things people need. What are linkages back if there is a CRC denial, for example. How can we continue to support families.
- Vaccine discussions with families without being intrusive. Family Round Tables.
- Phones ringing.

- Amy getting on monthly AWARE meetings to support the other parents.

DCF-Family Services:

- Compression is everywhere.
- Leadership changes, staff safety challenges, a lot of transition. All combined with COVID is overwhelming.
- A lot of conversation around Governor's emergency declaration and functions that were shifted. Young work force, staff concerned about childcare and navigating the pressures.
- How/when, making shifts in in person care.
- Implementation work Raise the Age, Family First, financing services – receiving Federal technical assistance. A large team is working on this. Timeframes coming up related to residential, human trafficking, kinship work.
- Need to have a model to support kinship care, looking at a kin navigation model, hoping it will be approved as a promising practice. Have increased kin placements by 15%.
- Challenges in residential system of care. Programs are challenged. Community safety challenges that they need to respond to.
- Also affected by hiring freeze. Had only two Operations folks managing all of the work. Beth Sausville will be FFSA manager, Alix Gibson will be moving to Operations from the St. Albans District.
- Entire system of care is in a fragile state, it has been a challenge. Look forward to when we can build back our system of care where it needs to be.

AOE:

- H. 106, building up schools, \$110K times three years and pulling in mental, physical health, including dental, legal advocacy, truancy and drop out prevention. Looks at the home-school-community bigger picture.
- Laurel – noted Alicia not here, a tremendous amount of work in recovery efforts and how to meet the needs of schools locally.

VFN:

- Many families concerned about what ESY will look like. Understand there will be guidance but there is trepidation, families want robust programming to make up for what has been lost last year.

Amy Roth – offering of remembrances of Marion Paris. Acknowledging her gifts and achievements and profound caring for children in Vermont.

<p>Act 264 Board reappointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinn Smith • Teresa Sunderland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Active, motivated members who bring important information to the table. ○ Laurel – how are we ensuring that we are including for diversity for the Board? Do we have representation from the BIPOC community? Need to constantly be asking ourselves this. ○ Laurel – helpful to have continuity but also helpful to have new people to bring other perspectives. ○ Sandi – many conversations have happened around outreach to Abnaki community thanks to Alice; youth and regional voice also needed. ○ Amy – what is outreach like? How is the Board connecting with BIPOC communities about Act 264? ○ Suzanne – would staggered terms be helpful? ○ SIT approved both reappointments. 	
<p>CSP Refresher-Attendance, follow up and signatures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>LIT Connections meetings</u> has been a great way to have focused discussions. Matt Shibley shared the work happening in Springfield. Would like these continue. • Recent discussion about CSP follow up meetings. Making sure the right people are at the table. • Residential – DCF does not have to sign off if not involved but would be good to make sure they are aware. • Would be good to continue these. People value the minutes and the attachments. 	
<p>Review System of Care Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss priorities for this year—what is one hope you have related to the SOC plan that you would like to see move forward? What role can you play in that? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize the Residential Analysis Report to increase the number of children, youth and families served in community settings by investing in community-based supports and focusing on mobile response efforts in Vermont. 2. Continue supporting funding structures that are coordinated and streamlined to the highest extent possible across AHS departments, moving away from fee-for-service funding and toward value-based payments. 	

<p>3. Support statewide services being streamlined and coordinated during and after the pandemic.</p> <p>CDD - childcare funds is a huge piece to assist with childcare needed and support that childcares need.</p> <p>CSHN is working on a payment reform project for pediatric high-tech nursing services w/DVHA partners and a variety of stakeholders</p> <p>DDSD joining Town Hall re: increased funding and how to utilize. Work force group. Bidders conference for RFP coming up related to providing intensive supports.</p> <p>DCF - PNMI is being reformed. This will impact residential funding - unclear what it will ultimately look like. Family First legislation will impact systems of care.</p> <p>AOE - currently, there is a bill in the legislature for universal meals. There is \$40 million a year, leaning more towards universal breakfast vs. universal for all. Social emotional learning will be a big push next year. Recovery plans will include a lot of these kinds of supports.</p> <p>DMH - Success Beyond Six program & payment reform in Behavioral Intervention Program partnering with AOE, DAs, DVHA looking at last behavioral fee for service program – Success Beyond Six. How can mental health system support others, including endeavors that will support teachers.</p>	
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